

Females.

L. pityopsittacus	3.90	2.60	.75	.50	.58	-----	-----	1
“ mexicana	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	(None.)
“ curvirostra	3.75	2.35	.71	.49	.45	.70	-----	2
“ japonica	3.66	2.28	.68	.46	.44	.68	.57	3
“ bendirei	3.50	2.23	.67	.46	.39	.66	.56	11
“ americana	3.31	2.08	.59	.44	.37	.63	.52	23

NOTE.—Since the above was written, Mr. Wm. Palmer has kindly loaned me for examination three adult males and two females, obtained at Escanaba, Michigan, in June, 1883. These all belong to *americana*, and doubtless represent the form which breeds in that region.

NOTE ON THE ANAS HYPERBOREUS, PALL., AND
ANSER ALBATUS, CASS.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

(Read March 8, 1884.)

While there can be no doubt that Mr. Cassin did right in separating the smaller North American Snow Geese from the larger ones, it is very evident that he committed an error in giving the smaller form a new name. Pallas's *Anas hyperboreus* was based upon the birds of this species occurring in eastern Siberia; and on referring to his description it is perfectly clear that the Siberian specimens are identical with those from Alaska and other western portions of North America, which represent the so-called "*A. albatu*s" of Cassin. This smaller form of the Snow Goose is not only the typical race, but has by far the most extensive distribution, so far, at least, as the United States are concerned, and is decidedly the more common one in most collections.* The larger race is the *Anas nivalis* of Forster (Philos. Trans., lxii, 1772, p. 413), and may therefore be called *Chen* (or *Anser*) *hyperboreus nivalis* (FORST). The habitat of this large race is the region about Hudson's Bay (the breeding grounds unknown, however), and southward in winter chiefly along the Atlantic coast of the United

* The National Museum possesses only three specimens of the larger form, but has received at least ten times that number of the smaller race.

States. The smaller form, or true *hyperboreus*, breeds along the arctic coast, from northern Alaska eastward for an undetermined distance, but at least to the mouth of the McKenzie river; and throughout this extent of coast-line, and thence southward over the whole western portion of the continent, entirely replaces the larger bird.

As to the distinctive characters of the two races, I would remark that, while the length of the wing is by no means decisive (the maximum of *hyperboreus* being about 17.50 inches, and the minimum of *nivalis* 17.00!), *nivalis* always has a much larger bill, the culmen in adults of this form measuring from 2.50 to 2.65, and the length of the bill from tip to point of the basal angles, 3.00 to 3.12, the corresponding measurements of *hyperboreus* being only 1.95 to 2.28 and 2.50, or less, to 2.75.

REMARKS ON THE TYPE SPECIMENS OF MUSCICAPA
FULVIFRONS, GIRAUD, AND MITREPHORUS PALLES-
CENS, COUES.

BY ROBERT RIDGWAY.

(Read March 8, 1884.)

In the "Nomenclature of North American Birds" (p. 32, Nos. 329 and 329a), I have included, as two races of one species, an "*Empidonax fulvifrons* (Giraud) Scl.," and an *E. fulvifrons pallescens* Coues." This I did under the impression, based upon previous examination of the type specimens, that they were in reality sufficiently distinct to justify subspecific separation. Having recently had the matter brought to mind in another connection, I have re-examined the types in question, together with other material, and have thereby come to the following conclusions: (1) that *E. pallescens* is a decidedly smaller, lighter, or grayer colored western race, restricted to the western side of the Rocky Mountains, in Arizona and New Mexico, and probably portions of western Mexico also, although I have not seen specimens from